ABSTRACT

The aim of the invention is to exchange data between an
external device and applications installed on network
elements of a packet-switching network by means of at
least one tunnel connection. Said aim is achieved by
connecting each network element to a network node
device that is part of the tunnel connection while a
global address is unambiguously assigned to the
terminal point of the tunneled connection, which is
located at the network end. The network node device
forms the terminal point of the tunnel connection,
which is located at the network end, if several network
elements jointly utilize said tunnel connection, one of
the network elements establishing a tunnel connection
and forming the terminal point at the network end
thereof if said network element requires a global
address for executing an application, a time during
which said tunnel connection is used exclusively by
said one network element while all data is routed
through the network node device.

\